

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, SHUM CI

SUBJ: CHILE IN UNGA THIRD COMMITTEE

REF: USUN 4297

1. WHILE MAKING NO COMMENT ON US ABSTENTION, CHILEAN PERMREP HUERTA, FORMER PERMREP BAZAN, AND THIRD COMMITTEE DEL DIAZ ALL CONGRATULATED US ON AMB BENNETT'S OCT 22 SPEECH IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON RESOLUTION CRITICIZING CHILE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED REFERENCE TO "DOUBLE STANDARD" IN JUDGING ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS FROM COLOMBIAN THIRD COMMITTEE DEL OBREGON AND THAI DEL.

2. ONLY LAS TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF RES, WHICH PASSED (83-9-21) WERE MEXICO AND ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES (GUYANA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AND JAMAICA). URUGUYAN PERMREP GIAMBRUNO, WHO VOTED AGAINST RES, TERMED MEXICAN VOTE "SHAMEFUL" IN LIGHT OF GOC'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO MAKE SEVERAL CONCESSIONS TO MEXICO IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD AFTER FONMIN RABASA'S VISIT THIS YEAR. IN ADDITION TO CHILE, EIGHT OTHER LAS VOTED AGAINST RES: ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY. BARBADOS, COSTA RICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, VENEZUELA ABSTAINED. ECUADOR, PANAMA, AND PERU,
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WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE RECORDS IN COMMITTEE, WERE CONSPICUOUSLY

(AND PROBABLY DELIBERATELY) ABSENT. OTHER UNEXPECTED ABSTENTIONS WERE EGYPT AND INDIA (CHILEANS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO LOBBY WITH THEM AND WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THEIR VOTE.). CHINESE AGAIN FOLLOWED THEIR UNIQUE FORMULA OF ANNOUNCING DURING ROLL CALL THAT THEY WERE NOT APRTICIPATING IN VOTE. CHILE SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED THAT ALL WESTERN EUROPEANS EXCEPT SPAIN, WHICH ABSTAINED, VOTED IN FAVOR OF RES.

3. WHEN ASKED BY AMBASSADOR BENNETT EVENING OCTOBER 23 ABOUT EGYPTIAN ABSTENTION, EGYPTIAN PERMREP ABDEL MEGUID SAID THAT EGYPT HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHILE AND HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED VISIT OF GOC OFFICIALS. HE ADDED WITH A SMILE THAT EGYPT DOES NOT ALWAYS VOTE THE WAY OTHERS WANTED IT TO.
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